

Summary : East and West Asian Community Building towards Energy and Environmental Security : A Preferred Futures Perspective

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《Summary》

East and West Asian Community Building towards Energy and Environmental Security: A Preferred Futures Perspective

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How can we best construct viable futures that will enable people and the environment to co-exist in harmony? The history of energy development from the days of the Babylonians indicates, as in the quote Walt Kelly first used on an Earth Day poster in 1970, “We have met the enemy and he is us.” Despite the fact East Asians consider people to be an integral part of nature; they have stepped up the destruction of Mother Nature while industrializing in the name of modernization. West Asians in recent decades joined other industrialized nations in rapid development, as symbolized in the rise of Dubai through the use of oil money before the oil runs out.

From the days of the British Empire, world supremacy has been based on a politico-military industrial complex derived from three key industries: oil, weapons and drugs. This supremacy structure has been challenged by the nationalization of oil, the decline of oil dollars and the rise of the Euro, the possible passing of peak oil in 2005, the emer-

gence of the new Seven Sisters, the intensified struggle for oil, the inability of military might to win wars, the emergence of EU and Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the rapid acquisition of foreign currency by China, Russia and other rapidly developing economic powers and their swiftly increasing possession of foreign currency led to global dimming and warming, the end of the “American Century” and the advent of a multi-polar world. These structural dynamics are overturning the post-WWII structure supporting the existence of Israel and the Arab-Israel conflict among others and the development of regional organizations based on mutual cooperation and reciprocity, reminiscent of the spirit of the Bandon Conference following the fall of Colonial rule.

Since we are the enemy of Earth, it is time for us to re-examine our self-centric pursuit of happiness, symbolized by modern ambience made possible by the development frontal cortex and move toward the welfare of not only the human race but Earth itself. We need to put an end to growing alienation, as symbolized by the widening gap between the poor and rich at the national level as well as the entire world. Policy shifts towards peace and harmony are needed, with emphasis placed on mutual and reciprocal cooperation and coexistence. It is the time to terminate the “sacred egoism” as Martin Buber tells us, before we destroy ourselves.